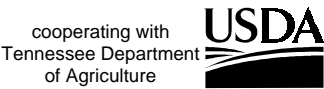




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Agri-News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 12, 2001

EXPECTATIONS HIGH FOR TENNESSEE’S WHEAT CROP

Based on a recent survey conducted by the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service, winter wheat producers are anticipating above average yields for 2001, despite insect and weather problems encountered during the month of May. The average State yield is forecast at 55 bushels per acre, the same yield as last year and the second highest yield on record. If realized, this will result in total production of 19.3 million bushels, down 8 percent from 2000. The biggest threat to this year’s crop occurred several weeks ago when armyworms moved into some of the top producing counties in the State. Growers actively treated for the pest during the second week of May and were able to prevent them from causing significant damage. A few fields with the greatest damage, however, were cut for hay. Weather during May was mostly favorable but strong storms at the end of the month did cause some isolated lodging. Growers are currently waiting for drier conditions in order to begin harvesting the crop.

Tennessee growers seeded a total of 520,000 acres last fall and intend to harvest 350,000 acres for grain, down 30,000 acres from last year. Dry conditions during planting last fall and normal crop rotations were the main reasons for the drop in acreage. The remaining 170,000 acres will be used as a cover crop or cut for hay and silage.

U.S. Winter Wheat

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.32 billion bushels, down 2 percent from the May 1 forecast and 15 percent below 2000 to the lowest level since 1978. Based on June 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 41.2 bushels per acre, down 0.6 bushels from the last forecast. Grain area totals 32.1 million acres, unchanged from May 1, but down 8 percent from 2000. This is the smallest winter wheat area since 1957. As of June 3, heading had reached 83 percent in the 18 major States. Harvest progress was at 3 percent, ranging from none in most States to 26 percent in Texas.

Kansas received widespread showers throughout May. The month of May brought seasonal temperatures and above average moisture to Colorado, conditions that were favorable for a crop that began the growing season with mediocre to poor stands. The crop continues to progress in mostly fair to good condition, but is still about a week behind the usual pace. The Montana crop condition plummeted during May due to damaging winds and dry soil. As of June 3, 77 percent of the Montana crop was rated poor to very poor. Crop conditions remained stable in Nebraska during May, where plant development is slightly behind normal.

WINTER WHEAT: TENNESSEE, SURROUNDING STATES, AND U.S., JUNE 1, 2001 WITH COMPARISONS ¹

State	Acreage Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
Arkansas	1,100	1,040	54.0	51.0	59,400	53,040
Georgia	200	220	54.0	48.0	10,800	10,560
Kentucky	420	340	57.0	56.0	23,940	19,040
Mississippi	235	170	55.0	50.0	12,925	8,500
Missouri	950	780	52.0	50.0	49,400	39,000
North Carolina	550	550	50.0	36.0	27,500	19,800
TENNESSEE	380	350	55.0	55.0	20,900	19,250
Virginia	205	175	63.0	57.0	12,915	9,975
United States	35,022	32,088	44.6	41.2	1,562,733	1,321,126

¹ 2001 forecast, 2000 final.